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STATINTL

Swedish Spy Claims Double Role

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STOCKHOLM, May 15—Col. Stig Wennerstrom told an open session of the court at the conclusion of his trial here today that he had been a double agent, first spying for NATO against the Soviet Union and later switching over to the Russians.

"I was engaged as an agent in international espionage, which was a factor in the cold war," he admitted. "I began as an agent for NATO against the Soviet Union. But I underwent successive changes of mind. I continued as a double agent and wound up as an agent for the Russians against NATO."

This statement was in contradiction with the picture drawn by State Prosecutor Werner Ryhninger, who contended that Wennerstrom began his espionage for the Germans in 1943 and switched over to the Russians in 1949.

Ryhninger demanded life imprisonment with hard labor, Sweden's maximum penalty, for Wennerstrom. In summing up, the prosecutor declared that "no Swedish court in modern times has had to judge so infamous a crime with such widespread and serious damage to the nation."

Ryhninger said there were 160 charges against the Swedish officer. He cited the case of one charge that concerned delivery to the Russians of more than 1000 pages of photographed defense secrets.

The prosecutor found that Wennerstrom was motivated by "opportunism, vanity and greed for money," but doubted that ideology had anything to do with his espionage.

In his brief statement to the court Wennerstrom expressed "disappointment" that the trial had been held largely behind locked doors and that he was prevented from talking about the military aspects of his espionage.